

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, EEC, DA

SUBJECT: GALLUP POLL INDICATES LARGE MAJORITY OF DANES PREFER  
FOLLOWING UK IF IT WITHDRAWS FROM EC

SUMMARY: A GALLUP POLL TAKEN IN LATE APRIL 1975 INDICATES THAT,  
WHILE OPPOSITION TO DANISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE PRESENT COMMUNITY  
OF NINE HAS DECLINED, AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF 74 PERCENT  
WOULD VOTE AGAINST CONTINUED DANISH EC MEMBERSHIP SHOULD THE  
UK DECIDE TO WITHDRAW. END SUMMARY.

1. A POLL TAKEN BY THE DANISH GALLUP INSTITUTE IN LATE APRIL

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1975 INDICATES THAT 40 PERCENT OF VOTERS ARE IN FAVOR OF CON-

TINUED DANISH MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES WHILE 41 PERCENT ARE AGAINST AND 19 PERCENT UNDECIDED. AMONG THE 59 PERCENT POSITIVE AND UNDETERMINED VOTES, ONLY 29 PERCENT FAVOR CONTINUED DANISH MEMBERSHIP IF UK DECIDES TO WITHDRAW. IN OTHER WORDS, ONLY 17 PERCENT FAVOR CONTINUED DANISH MEMBERSHIP IF UK LEAVES WHILE 74 PERCENT ARE AGAINST AND 9 PERCENT UNDECIDED.

2. THE 40 PERCENT STILL IN FAVOR OF DANISH MEMBERSHIP (IF THE UK STAYS IN) IS SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN THE 57 PERCENT MAJORITY (AGAINST 33 PERCENT NEGATIVE VOTES) WHICH APPROVED DENMARK'S ENTRY INTO THE EC AT THE OCTOBER 2, 1972 REFERENDUM BUT NOT THE LOWEST POSITIVE FIGURE RECORDED SINCE THEN. IN VARIOUS SUBSEQUENT POLLS THE POSITIVE VOTE DECLINED STEADILY SINCE 1972 AND BOTTOMED AT 31 PERCENT IN AUGUST 1974, WITH 53 PERCENT OF VOTERS AGAINST MEMBERSHIP AND 16 PERCENT UNDECIDED.

3. THE QUESTION OF DANISH EC MEMBERSHIP POSED TO VOTERS AT THE OCTOBER 1972 REFERENDUM CLEARLY IMPLIED BRITISH ENTRY AS THE PREREQUISITE FOR DANISH ENTRY. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT HAS PLEDGED ANOTHER DANISH REFERENDUM SHOULD THE UK DECIDE TO WITHDRAW. THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST GALLUP POLL INDICATE THAT ANOTHER DANISH REFERENDUM IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING A BRITISH WITHDRAWAL WOULD RISK A STRONG MAJORITY AGAINST CONTINUED DANISH MEMBERSHIP.

4. THE RISKS OF THIS HAPPENING ARE NOT GREAT. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, WHICH FAVORS CONTINUED DANISH MEMBERSHIP, HAS SAID THAT, SHOULD THE UK WITHDRAW, IT WOULD NOT HOLD A REFERENDUM UNTIL ALTERNATIVE BRITISH ARRANGEMENTS ARE DETERMINED, WHICH COULD MEAN A DELAY OF A YEAR OR MORE. HENCE, DANISH ANTI-MARKETEERS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT THE DRAMA SURROUNDING A NEGATIVE BRITISH VOTE. CROWE

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